

The Clarion

March 2008

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March Program to Feature The Chenaults

The March program of the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will feature a duo recital by husband and wife organists Raymond and Elizabeth Chenault. The program, Monday, March 31, will be held in Greene Chapel on the campus of Hendrix College, Conway, will begin at 7:30 p.m. Punchbowl and dinner will be served at First United Methodist Church, Conway beginning at 6:00 p.m. Reservation information and directions to the FUMC/Conway and Greene Chapel may be found on page 2.

Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault, duo-organists, have concertized extensively throughout the United States and in Europe. Specializing in works written for two performers, the Chenaults have commissioned and premiered over forty organ duets, thereby making a significant historical contribution to this slighted area of organ literature. Because of their unique and refreshing repertoire, combined with their exciting and sensitive artistry, the Chenaults are in demand as recitalists and have established themselves as America's leading duo-organists.

The Chenault's duet career began in 1979 when Arthur Wills of England's Ely Cathedral composed *Toccata for Two* for them, followed by John Rutter's *Variations on An Easter Theme* in 1982. Both duets were premiered by the Chenaults at Washington Cathedral and are now published. Other commissions quickly followed, and the Chenaults began playing over twenty duet recitals each year. They have been the featured recitalists at conferences and conventions hosted by the American Guild of Organists, the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, and the Association of Anglican Musicians, as well as the Crystal Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral (London), York Minster Cathedral (England) and the Spoleto Festival. The Chenaults also have commissioned duets from Douglas Major, Alan Gibbs, Ronald Arnatt, David Briggs, Charles Callahan, Gerre Hancock, Daniel Pinkham, Myron Roberts, Conrad Susa, Gaston Litaize, Naji Hakim, Philip Moore, Richard Shephard, Robert Powell, Nicholas White, Craig Phillips, Bruce Neswick, Jefferson McConnaughey, and Dorothy Papadakos. Additionally, the Chenaults have arranged several popular Christmas carols for organ duet.

Mr. and Mrs. Chenault, natives of Virginia, completed their Bachelor of Music degrees from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1972 studying organ with Lawrence Robinson. Mr. and Mrs. Chenault studied organ with Wayne Fisher at the Conservatory. Upon graduation, Mr. Chenault became a Fellow in Church Music at Washington Cathedral studying with Dr. Paul Callaway. Other organ teachers include Arthur Poister and John Fenstermaker.



Dinner Reservation Information

Reservations for the dinner may be made by calling Ann Johnston at (501) 661-1943 or by emailing: don_annjohnston@sbcglobal.net

Deadline for reservations is NOON, Thursday, March 27 . Reservations are \$10.00 per person.

Directions to FUMC/Conway

From Little Rock, take I-40 to Conway and take the Highway 64 West Exit. Turn left on to Highway 64 (Oak Street) and stay on until you cross the railroad tracks. Make an immediate right on Parkway Avenue and then a left on Prince Street. FUMC is located on the corner of Prince and Clifton Streets. The parking lot may be accessed by staying on Prince Street and turning right just past the Sanctuary and Education Building.

To get to Greene Chapel from the church, take a left Clifton Street to Hairston Street. Turn right and you will immediately cross the railroad tracks. Turn left onto Washington Avenue and immediately turn right into the parking lot behind Greene Chapel. Please consider carpooling to Conway!

“Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault: The World’s Premiere Duo-Organ Team” *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*

Program for March 31

Variations on an Easter Theme	John Rutter
Eclogue	Richard Shephard
Allegro for Organ Duet	Philip Moore
Nativity Scenes	Myron Roberts
Variations on <i>Veni Creator Spiritus</i>	David Briggs
Evensong	Charles Callahan
The Stars and Stripes Forever	John Philip Sousa

Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault - Organ Duo Artists

Please invite a friend to join you for the program. There is no better way to reach potential members than a personal invitation.

This program is presented by Hendrix College. We thank Nancy and Ansley Fleming for hosting us. Also, thanks to Betty Cohen for serving as hostess for the punchbowl and dinner.

From the Dean

As I am writing this we are but one week away from Palm Sunday and the week of activities which some of us celebrate and thus, bear the responsibility of music to accompany the various days of "Holy Week"; i.e. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and for some, the Easter Vigil, and ultimately Easter Sunday.

Much thought and preparation goes into the appropriate selection and then preparation of music for these diverse celebrations. Those in our guild who bear the responsibility of preparing a choir and/or instrumentalists/bell choirs have added responsibilities beyond our own organ voluntaries and choral accompaniments.

The journey from Calvary to Resurrection is one filled with much thought, retrospection and anticipation. So it is with everything we as organists strive to do as church musicians. We seek out new music, new ways of preparing ourselves, our music and we strive to perfect music making which will inspire and lead others to a place in their spiritual journey which also evokes the journey from Calvary to Redemption.

With Easter itself a joy filled celebration of promise and praise we look ahead to a wonderful evening of music making with inspired music and musicianship. Join the CACAGO in experiencing the husband and wife duo-organists Ray and Beth Chenault in an evening of fine music making at the Chapel at Hendrix College in Conway. Many of us have heard their twenty fingers upon the keys while others have only second hand knowledge of the awesome power of such combined musicianship at one organ.

Each of our programs this year has been diverse. This one promises as well to be diverse and spectacular in its visual as well as aural artistry. Our thanks to Betty Cohen for coordinating the dinner meeting at First United Methodist Church, Conway, prior to the concert. Make your reservations now and bring guests.

Phil Bordeleau, Dean - CACAGO

“Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault are noted practitioners of the art of two performers/one organ” *The New York Times*

April Program will honor Robert Young Ellis

The April program of the Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will honor the life of Robert Young Ellis.

The recital, presented by young American organist Nathan Laube, will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 5th and Scott Streets, Little Rock **SATURDAY, APRIL 19, at 2:00 PM** (please note that the date in the Chapter Yearbook is incorrect). Joining our chapter will be members of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter and the Fort Smith Chapters of the American Guild of Organists. Special guest for the **noon** punchbowl and luncheon will be Regional Councilor Madolyn Douglas Fallis, who will address the joint meeting of the three chapters.

The May program of our chapter will be held May 16 at First Presbyterian Church, downtown Little Rock. The program of music by Masonic composers, will be presented by organist Simon Nieminski. A reception will follow to concert at the Albert Pike Memorial Temple.

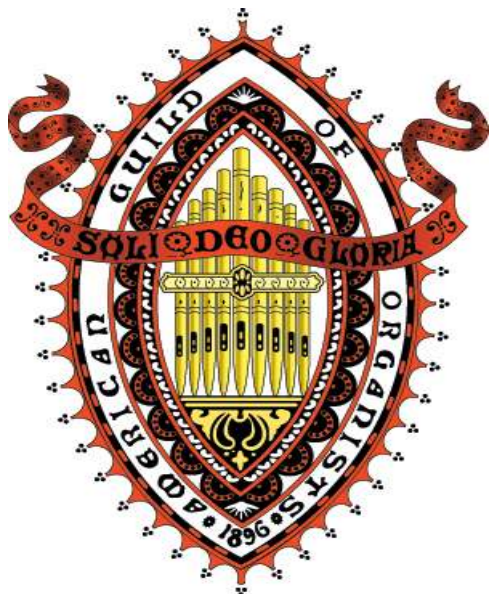
Have a blessed Holy Week and a glorious Easter!

The Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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www.cacago.org



André Duvall

Congratulations to Memphis Chapter member (and former CACAGO member) **André Duvall**! He was awarded first place in the Beethoven Club Young Artists Senior Piano Division competition. He and other division winners will present a program at the Beethoven Club, Sunday March 16, at 3:00 p.m. André is a student at the University of Memphis, working on the Master of Piano Performance degree. We offer our congratulations to this fine young musician!

Upcoming Events/Concerts

Friday, March 14 - Organist David Briggs will accompany the silent film “King of Kings” at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 17th and Spring Streets, Little Rock. The program, which is free and open to all, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, March 31 - Organ Duo Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault in concert. Greene Chapel on the campus of Hendrix College, Conway. The program, which is free and open to all, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17 - Celebrate SPRINGTIME! with the Little Rock Wind Symphony. Join conductor Dr. Karen Fannin and guest flutist Liana Tyson on a musical tribute to spring. 7:30 p.m. Music of Bach, Sousa, Ticheli, Lauridson, Chaminade, and Copland. For more information: www.lrwindsymphony.org

Saturday, April 19 - Organist Nathan Laube will pay tribute to Robert Young Ellis. The concert will begin at 2:00 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, Little Rock. The program is free and open to all.

Friday, May 16 - Organist Simon Nieminski will perform music of Masonic composers. The program, at First Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, will be followed by a reception at the Albert Pike Memorial Temple.
